

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Native David Campbell at Concordia University

The poems and songs of Guyana-born David Campbell have had a deep impact on listeners throughout North America and Great Britain, turning people's attention to the hardships of American natives. Let him reach out to you on Friday, October 1st, when he performs at Concordia University in room H-435 of the Hall Building at 1455 de Maisonneuve West, at 8 pm. Admission is free.

Of Arawak Indian descent, David is the son of the late Stephen Campbell who was the first Amerindian member of the Guyanese Parliament. Feeling that a story must be told about the native people of the Americas, David's poems and songs reflect his childhood among the Arawaks, his awakening to the injustices of society and history, the oppression and victimization his people have suffered, and the great tradition natives must rediscover.

In his song, No, Not Columbus, he tries to rectify an error in history by pointing out that the gentle Arawak people were among the first to set foot on American soil. "The stories about Columbus discovering the New World are really racist statements," David said in an interview. "It is in fact saying that the people who were already here were not human."

A strong commitment to social justice pervades his five long-playing and two single records as well as his three books of songs and poems which are available from the Development Education Center in Toronto, the city in which David Campbell has lived and performed for the past three years.

The David Campbell evening is sponsored by the Religion Society of Concordia University.

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Lilian Goetze,
Asst. Information Officer